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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany/USSR

REPORT

SUBJECT Views on the Current Struggle for Power in the USSR

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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- Source does not believe that the fall of Beria signified Red Army ascendancy in the USSR. Source points out that although the top military man in the USSR is a general, he is not really an Army man, but a State Security general. The views of his two subordinate leading army generals are in almost direct opposition with each other, both personally and in regard to their concepts of professional strategy and tactics. Therefore, it is assumed that these two are easily and deliberately played off against one another.

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- the importance of the Communist Party in the USSR cannot be overestimated. However, Malenkov, because of his involvement in the government apparatus, is playing a lesser role in the Party and therefore may be headed for a decline. during recent speeches, Malenkov addressed the Chamber of Nationalities. This assembly is of lesser stature than the Chamber of Soviet Republics which was addressed by Khrushchev, and the latter's speech received more space in the Soviet press than did Malenkov's. significant that Khrushchev received a more enthusiastic reception and applause than did Malenkov.

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- the purge of the intelligence/security (MGB/MVD) apparatus has almost reached completion, and that the next institutions to undergo a drastic purge will be the Army and the Party itself.

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